

males of the latter. But when alive, *H. cinerascens*, with its dark brown iris and naked reddish-pink upper eyelid, may be distinguished at a glance from *B. maculosus*, in which the normal colour of the iris is yellow and the upper eyelid closely clad with short feathers that usually entirely cover it, though occasionally the covering is slightly imperfect towards the anterior corner of the eye, showing the colour of the eyelid to be black.

Two other African Owls must here be mentioned. One of these is that very fine and scarce species from the Fantee Country in Western Africa, which was described by Messrs. Sharpe and Ussher in the 'Ibis,' 1872, p. 182, under the name of "*Huhua shellyi*," and was subsequently figured by Mr. Sharpe in his Catalogue of Striges, pl. 2, under that of "*Bubo shellyi*." This noble Owl has the bill yellow, which is unfortunately not shown in the figure, but the colour of the irides has not, so far as I am aware, been yet ascertained. The other species to which I propose to allude, "*Bubo leucostictus*" of Hartlaub, is also West-African, its range extending from the Gold Coast to the River Gaboon. This Owl has a yellow bill, but its irides are also yellow, as recorded by the late Professor Schlegel in his work on the 'Muséum des Pays-Bas,' *Oti*, p. 16. I am indebted to Dr. F. A. Jentink, of the Leyden Museum, for obligingly calling my attention to the circumstance of Professor Schlegel's accuracy in this statement having been subsequently confirmed by Dr. Anton Reichenow's record of a young Owl of this species which he obtained in the Camaroon mountains, and described as having the iris pale yellow, and the bill, cere, and claws yellow (*vide Journ. für Orn.* 1874, p. 387). This interesting species is, I believe, still unfigured.

December 2, 1884.

Prof. Flower, LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The Secretary made the following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of November 1884:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of November was 82. Of these 4 were obtained by birth, 39 by presentation, 28 by purchase, 3 by exchange, and 8 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 105.

The most noticeable additions during the month were:—

1. A pair of Tasmanian Wolves (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*), obtained by purchase from Mr. B. Crowther of Launceston, Tasmania, and received November 14th, being the first specimens of this animal received since the pair presented by Mr. Ronald Gunn in 1863.

I have already alluded (see P. Z. S. 1883, p. 252) to the exertions

we have lately been making to obtain living examples of this rare Marsupial. Of two pairs forwarded to the Society during the present year, one by Mr. Le Souëf of Melbourne, and the other by Mr. B. Crowther, the latter only reached us alive. These animals are apparently nearly adult, in good condition, and seem likely to do well.

2. An example of the Red-tailed Amazon (*Chrysotis erythrura*), being the second we have received of this rare species, of which the locality has not yet been ascertained (see P. Z. S. 1880, p. 23, pl. ii.).

Mr. Sclater called the attention of the Meeting to the death, on the 5th of July last, of the specimen of the Greater Vasa Parrot (*Coracopsis vasa*), presented by the late C. Telfair, Esq., on July 25, 1830, and which had thus passed nearly 54 years in the Society's Gardens. The sex was determined by the Prosector to be female; the ovaries had disappeared, but the oviduct (left) was conspicuously present; the large size of the cloaca was remarkable, and it was possible that the phenomenon described in connection with another specimen of this same Parrot (see above, p. 410) might have been due to the protrusion of the cloaca by the female bird.

Mr. Sclater further stated that he had been informed by Mr. Thomas Waters, who had passed many years collecting in Madagascar¹, that he had upon one occasion shot a Greater Vasa Parrot, which had a dark fleshy mass protruding from the cloaca very much of the same description as that referred to above.

Mr. G. E. Dobson, F.R.S., exhibited and made remarks on a diagram designed to illustrate the evolution of the Mammalia according to the system put forward by Prof. Huxley.

A communication was read from the Rev. A. M. Norman and the Rev. T. R. R. Stebbing, containing the first portion of a memoir on the Crustacea Isopoda dredged during the expeditions of the 'Porcupine,' 'Lightning,' and 'Valorous.' The memoir contained descriptions of the representatives of the three families Tanaidæ, Apsseudidæ, and Anthuridæ obtained during the several expeditions. A great number of new forms, chiefly from deep water, including several new genera (*Sphyraphus*, *Alsotanais*, and *Tanaella* among the Tanaidæ, and *Anthelura*, *Hyssura*, *Cyathura*, and *Calathura* among the Anthuridæ), were described.

This paper will be printed entire in the Society's 'Transactions.'

The following papers were read:—

¹ Cf. P. Z. S. 1875, p. 62, et 1879, p. 767